

### § 270.17f-3

### 17 CFR Ch. II (4-1-01 Edition)

shall be transmitted promptly to an officer or director of the investment company designated by its board of directors who shall not be a person designated for the purpose of paragraph (d) of this section. Such notation shall be on serially numbered forms and shall be preserved for at least one year.

(f) Such securities and similar investments shall be verified by actual examination by an independent public accountant retained by the investment company at least three times during each fiscal year, at least two of which shall be chosen by such accountant without prior notice to such company. A certificate of such accountant stating that an examination of such securities and investments has been made, and describing the nature and extent of the examination, shall be attached to a completed Form N-17f-2 (17 CFR 274.220) and transmitted to the Commission promptly after each examination.

[Rule N-17F-2, 12 FR 6717, Oct. 11, 1947, as amended at 54 FR 32049, Aug. 4, 1989]

#### § 270.17f-3 Free cash accounts for investment companies with bank custodians.

No registered investment company having a bank custodian shall hold free cash except, upon resolution of its board or directors, a petty cash account may be maintained in an amount not to exceed \$500: *Provided*, That such account is operated under the imprest system and is maintained subject to adequate controls approved by the board of directors over disbursements and reimbursements including, but not limited to fidelity bond coverage of persons having access to such funds.

(Sec. 17(f), 54 Stat. 815, 15 U.S.C. 80a-17(f), sec. 9, Pub. L. 91-547, 84 Stat. 1420)

[37 FR 9989, May 18, 1972]

#### § 270.17f-4 Deposits of securities in securities depositories.

(a) For the purpose of this rule, a "securities depository" is a system for the central handling of securities where all securities of any particular class or series of any issuer deposited within the system are treated as fungible and may be transferred or pledged

by bookkeeping entry without physical delivery of the securities.

(b) A registered management investment company (investment company) or any qualified custodian may deposit all or any part of the securities owned by the investment company in an Eligible Securities Depository as defined in § 270.17f-7 in accordance with the provisions of § 270.17f-7 and applicable provisions of § 270.17f-5, or in:

(1) A clearing agency registered with the Commission under section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (clearing agency), which acts as a securities depository, or

(2) The book-entry system as provided in subpart O of Treasury Circular No. 300, 31 CFR part 306, subpart B of 31 CFR part 350, and the book-entry regulations of Federal agencies substantially in the form of subpart O, in accordance with the following paragraphs of this section.

(c) An investment company may deposit the securities in a clearing agency which acts as a securities depository under an arrangement that contains the following elements:

(1) The investment company has a system that is reasonably designed to prevent unauthorized officer's instructions and which provides, at least, for the form, content, and means of giving, recording, and reviewing the instructions. An "officer's instruction" is a request or direction to a clearing agency in the name of the investment company by one or more persons authorized by its board of directors to give it.

(2) Upon ceasing to act for an investment company, and subject to its own rules on contributions to a participants fund, the clearing agency shall deliver all securities held for the investment company to a successor clearing agency, custodian, or safekeeper under Rule 17f-2 (17 CFR 270.17f-2), to be named by the investment company. Where the investment company has not named one, the clearing agency shall deliver the investment company securities to a bank having the qualifications prescribed in section 26(a)(1) of the Act for trustees of unit investment trusts, to be held by the bank as custodian for the investment company under terms customary to a custodian agreement